



Hello Friends:

### **THE WEEK IN SACRAMENTO**

This week, I participated in a press conference with **Assembly Speaker Nunez** and other legislators. The press conference took place as a result of revelations that, in some cases, state parole officers were temporarily housing paroled sex offenders less than a half mile from schools, which is a violation of state law.

#### **I issued the following statement regarding this problem:**

"The fact that state parole agents are knowingly violating the law by placing convicted child molesters closer to schools than the law allows is a despicable and disgusting act. Why is the state paying for sexual predators to be placed in situations that may increase their likelihood of attacking children again? It is well beyond my comprehension as to how this practice is occurring, especially when so many high level Administration officials are aware of it. I call on the Governor to act right away in order to end this gross violation of the law by the very individuals who are entrusted to enforce and uphold the law. Those responsible for allowing these illegalities to occur should be ashamed of themselves for knowingly putting the children of our state in danger."

Also this week, I introduced **AB 2045**, legislation that will allow poor and rural school districts to more easily obtain state funding for necessary facility construction.

Under current law, the **State Allocation Board** provides funding to school districts for the construction and modernization of school facilities, and any funding appropriated is considered final. In other words, school districts cannot currently petition for additional monies if their costs are greater than expected. **AB 2045** creates an exception allowing the **State Allocation Board** to approve a supplement of up to 10% of the cost of a project in order to ensure that all necessary facilities are included in a given project. This bill also calls for an increase in the total bonding capacity, from \$5 million to \$7.5 million, that a school district may have while still remaining eligible to qualify for financial hardship funding.

I am really looking forward to working on this bill, because I know it has the potential to do a lot good for a lot of schoolchildren in our district and around the state. If you have any questions regarding **AB 2045**, please contact my staff in Sacramento at (916) 319-2030.

This week, as chair of the committee, I presided over a hearing of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC). The State Auditor, Elaine M. Howle, highlighted major findings, recommendations, and fiscal benefits reported in a report titled, *Implementation of State Auditor's Recommendations*. The purpose of the hearing, the first of its kind, was to allow the State Auditor

to brief the Legislature on important aspects of the audit process that also impact the budget process.

I asked the Auditor to look at a number of audits over the last four years, while focusing specifically on 15 recent audits, the issues of which ranged from health and human services and resources, to education and state administration. The recommendations in these audits, should they be implemented, could potentially save the state \$38 million. All in all, over the last four years, the State Auditor has offered 360 recommendations, which if fully adopted by state government, could result in \$750 million in savings.

By incorporating the findings and the recommendations of the State Auditor into the budget process we can more effectively work toward a higher level of government efficiency and accountability. This hearing represents the first time the Legislature has attempted to include input from the Bureau of State Audits into the budget process, but it certainly will not be the last time such a hearing is held.

This week, my Sacramento staff met with representatives from the **Western Association of College Admission Counseling (WACAC)**, an organization devoted to supporting and enhancing the work of counseling and enrollment professionals from both Nevada and California as they help all students realize their full potential. The **WACAC** places strong emphasis on the transition from secondary schools to colleges and universities and also deals with the issues of access and equity for all students.

My staff really enjoyed meeting with **WACAC** because they participated in an engaging conversation regarding education legislation with their representatives and also gained a better understand of what the organization is all about. For more information on **WACAC**, please access their web site at <http://www.wacac.org/> or contact their offices at **(866) 302-2674**.

I also sat down with the **City Managers of Delano and Coalinga, Abdel Salem and Stephen Julian**, respectively. Both managers asked me to continue fighting for budget trailer language that will reimburse local communities throughout the state for costs related to community correctional facilities.

On Saturday, I will be attending the **Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Annual Installation Banquet**, where the following individuals will be honored for their contributions to our communities:

- **Business Woman of the Year – Karen Atriano, Suzette’s Cleaners**
- **Business Man of the Year – Richard Rios, All Kern Financial**
- **Small Business of the Year – iKnow Technology**
- **Large Business of the Year – Mercado Nuevo**
- **Corporation of the Year – Advance Beverage**
- **Community Service Award – Kathryn Lomely**
- **President’s Award – Jesus Giovannetti, GIO Consulting**
- **Outgoing Chairperson – Elva Lopez, Office of Senator Dean Florez**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **CAL GRANTS AND FAFSA WORKSHOPS**

As many of you might know, paying for college can be difficult, but California has always been a leader in providing eligible students with an affordable college education. Cal Grants, a need-based financial aid program, has been a big part of making college affordable for many California families.

Qualified students can get up to \$8,322 a year to attend almost any college in California – awards vary depending on need, grades, and the college you attend.

This year I will be hosting four **Cal Grant and FAFSA Workshops** throughout my district to give high school seniors, community college transfer students (under 24 years of age), and GED holders (within one year of completion) an opportunity to learn about and apply for **Cal Grants** and other types of financial assistance programs. It is important to note that in order to be considered for many of these programs you must submit a **Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** application to the **U.S. Department of Education** before **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

I will look forward to seeing you at this weekend's Cal Grant Workshop in McFarland. Below, you will find a comprehensive list of dates and locations for upcoming Cal Grant Workshops I will be hosting throughout the district. If you are unable to make any of these, I encourage you to visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) for information on filling out a FAFSA form and [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) for information on CAL Grants.

**McFarland**  
**Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Noon to 2:00 p.m.**  
**McFarland High School Cafeteria**  
**601 Second St.**

**Arvin**  
**Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Noon to 2:00 p.m.**  
**Arvin High School Cafeteria**  
**900 Varsity Road**

**Hanford: TBD**

If you are planning to attend any of these workshops please be sure to bring the documents listed below. They will be needed to properly fill out your financial aid forms.

- Federal income tax returns from 2004 or 2003
- Your W-2 forms or pay-check stubs
- Bank statements
- Your Social Security Card or number
- Your parents' W-2 forms
- Your parents' Social Security Card or numbers

### **ONGOING EVENT**

When you have some free time, please join **Pastor Jordan, Isiah Crompton**, and other community members in their effort to get out the message about stopping violence in our communities. They walk from house to house every Saturday, knocking on doors and explaining to people the importance of keeping an eye on and working against violence in our neighborhoods. I would like to invite everyone, from individuals, to families, to groups of friends, and any concerned organizations to join us in making our streets safer for our families and our children. For more information on the **Stop the Violence** campaign, please contact **Pastor Jordan at (661) 472-2637**.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

The **City of Hanford** will be holding its **Black History Month Celebration** on Saturday, **February 25<sup>th</sup>** at the **Hanford Civic Auditorium** on 400 N. Douty Street. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is at 6:00 p.m. Tickets for the dinner are \$20.00.

There will be various forms of entertainment including, live musical performances, stories, songs and visual arts. As I find more information, I will keep you informed. For any questions, though, please contact my **Hanford District Office at (559) 585-7170**.

### **COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS**

**Bill Andrews** of my **Bakersfield District Office** will be attending a **Celebration of National Parent Leadership Month**, from 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., sponsored by the **Kern County Department of Human Services**. Each year, during the month of February, this initiative recognizes parents for the crucial leadership roles they play in their homes, communities, and in local, state, and national arenas.

It is important that we honor our parents, because they really do play huge roles in our lives. They lay the foundations upon which we build our lives, and, speaking from personal experience, I can honestly say I owe a lot to my parents.

I know this will be a great event!!!

### **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS**

#### ***Scholarship Opportunities***

Any students interested in nursing careers should strongly consider applying for the Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship at Bakersfield College. **IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY!**

I know how stressful it can be to have to worry about taking out student loans to pay for college, but you never have to repay scholarship money.

For more information on applying for the **Fall 2006/Spring 2007** scholarship call the **Health Professionals Education Foundation** at **1-800-773-1669** or visit [www.healthprofessions.ca.gov](http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov). The application **deadline** for the fall 2006/spring 2007 school year scholarship is **March 24<sup>th</sup> 2006**.

#### ***Youth In Need***

The **California Coalition for Youth's (CCY)** mission is to be the **PLACE** that improves and empowers the lives of California's youth by:

- **Partnering with youth**
- **Linking with youth-serving programs throughout California**
- **Advocating for youth rights**
- **Connecting youth to resources**
- **Educating communities, policymakers, and stakeholders**

The **CCY** also coordinates a statewide, toll free, 24-hour, confidential phone crisis line available to young people between the ages of 12-24, and concerned friends and family members. **CCY** provides crisis intervention counseling on many issues including family problems, sexual assault, eating disorders, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, suicide and more. **CCY** offers support, encouragement, and referrals to youth needing assistance or in crisis situations. The **California Youth Crisis Line** connects an average of 12,000 callers with vital resources annually. Agencies as well as young adults from every county in California use the Crisis **Line's toll-free number, 1-800-843-5200**.

### **NEED HOMEWORK HELP?**

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with

homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between **1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** and follow the simple setup instructions.

### **CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONNECTION**

The **California Youth Connection (CYC)** is a statewide organization comprised of foster youth, both past and present, who work diligently in formulating policies and advocating for legislation on behalf of California's foster youth population.

For more information on **CYC**, please visit their web site at <http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc/> or simply call **CYC's** statewide office at 415-442-5060.

### **MEETING REQUESTS**

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov).

### **INTERNS WANTED**

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield and Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley. Applications can be found by going to:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Matt Rogers** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at [Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov).

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at [Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov).

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov).

#### **Bakersfield Office:**

601 24th St.,  
Suite A  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Phone: (661) 334-3745  
Fax: (661) 334-3796

#### **Hanford Office:**

321 N. Douty St.,  
Suite B  
Hanford, CA 93230  
Phone: (559) 585-7170  
Fax: (559) 585-7175

#### **Capitol Office:**

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249  
Phone: (916) 319-2030  
Fax: (916) 319-2130

**Email:** [Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov)

**Web Site:** <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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